REPORT NO. 79-3-26

FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT UNIT
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
DORAVILLE, GEORGIA

REPORT OF AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY

LAND OWNERSHIP OR SURVEY AREA: Talladega Ranger District, Talladega National Forest

STATE: Alabama

AREA WITH SURVEY BOUNDARY: 220,000 acres

DATE: July 16, 1979

PERCENT COVERAGE: 50%

AIRCRAFT: Cessna 182

CREW: R. F. Bassett (Aerial Survey Team) and Don Stevens (Talladega Ranger District)

REPORT PREPARED BY: R. F. Bassett

SURVEY OBJECTIVE: To determine the current status of southern pine beetle activity on the Talladega Ranger District.

SURVEY RESULTS

Sixty two spots of dead and dying pine were observed on the 50% aerial survey (Table 1). Some of the larger infestations contained more than 200 trees (see attached map).

Table 1--Summary of Aerial Survey Data-Talladega Ranger District, Talladega National Forest, Alabama, July 16, 1979[1/].

Ownership	Infestation Size (# Trees)								Total	
	6-20		21-50		51-100		100+			
	Spots	Trees	Spots	Trees	Spots	Trees	Spots	Trees	Spots	Trees
National Forest	28	417	21	830	7	600	6	1100	62	2947

CONCLUSIONS

There is no doubt the causal agent responsible for the large amount of pine mortality is southern pine beetle. (Don Stevens and other District personnel

1/ Based on flight lines two miles apart with 1/2 mile viewing strip on each side of aircraft. Spots of less than six trees were not plotted by observers.

have been aware of southern pine beetle problems in their routine ground surveillance program). The large numbers of fading trees observed indicate many of the spots are active. The overall assessment from the air is that the southern pine beetle population on the Talladega Ranger Distric is increasing.

For any additional information, contact

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